

A New Endemic *Thesium* Species from Italy

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L'étude et l'interprétation
exacte de l'endémisme d'un
territoire est le critérium
suprême . . .

BRAUN-BLANQUET 1923 : 223

Abstract — The paper brings a description and a brief analysis of a new species called *Thesium sommieri* described from the territory of Apuane Alps, Pistoian and Luccan Apennines in Tuscany. Simultaneously, the phytogeographic and florogenetic importance is drafted of *T. sommieri* in the given territory as well as its phylogenetic affinity to related species.

On studying the rich herbarium material borrowed from the Botanical Institute of the University of Florence I found a number of herbarium-specimens of fairly identical plants originating especially from Apuane Mountains, so-called Alpi Apuane and the neighbouring territory of Apennines. The above-mentioned plants were sampled by various workers, and were being determined by them in different ways, however, all these determinations were at the first sight wrong.

By means of a very thorough comparative studies I came, in the end, to a firm conclusion that it is a morphologically fairly sharply determined type distinguished by a very segregated stenotic distribution and representing doubtlessly a new species not described previously. I did not arrive to this conclusion until 1963, so that it was not possible to include this new species into the survey of European representative of the genus *Thesium* (cf. HENDRYCH 1964). Although I had studied the genus *Thesium* for years I did not suppose it could be possible to disclose in Europe and for Europe and for Europe a new species of this genus (cf. HENDRYCH 1962b).

Studying of literature, not quite complete for the reason of inaccessibility of many sources, indicated that this new species I had called *Thesium sommieri* possessed an old and fairly varied noetic history. That was caused partly for its being a representative of a fairly difficult genus, partly because it was connected to a territory which had been botanically comparatively well investigated ever since PETIVER (1715), and especially, since VITMAN (1773).

The first direct news doubtlessly related to plants of *T. sommieri* I disclosed, however, in BERTOLONI (1819 : 345). He introduces *T. sommieri* under the name of *T. intermedium* (with a synonyme *T. linophyllum* β *intermedium* WILLD.), with a description and differential diagnosis towards *T. alpinum* L. and *T. linophyllum* L. understood by him very vaguely. He designes its finding place as "in Lunensium lapicidinis supra Torrano et in Tambura". The first locality is not very clear to me. Perhaps it should be the village Torano near Carrara, or another village called Torrano (or Torano), probably in the vicinity of the town La Spezia (called Luna in Latin). Most probably, however, it might be the village Torrano near the town Pontremoli in the southern part of the Ligurian Apennines). Nevertheless, I saw no plants from such a locality

in the herbarium. However, it may be admitted that plants from there have not relation even to *T. sommieri*. In the second case, it is the hill Tambura (1890 m) in Apuane Alps from where I possess an authentic sample (see below). Later, BERTOLONI (1835 : 740) repeats his data but under the name of *T. linophyllum*. Whether and how this type is mentioned by PUCCINELLI (1841) I do not know since his paper remained inaccessible to me, the same as the work by SIMI (1851).

The whole problem was dealt with in a more complicated way by A. DeCANDOLLE (1853 : 644), who included our plants into his new species *T. italicum* referring to BERTOLONI (both abovesited papers). By mistake, he included also into this species Italian plants of the species *T. parnassi* which he had described on the previous page, (p. 643), from Greece. Besides that, he included there plants from Sardinia which form a justified rational centre of his species *T. italicum*. I ascertained it by studying the photocopies of the type deposited in DeCANDOLLE's herbarium in Geneva.

He introduced plants of actual *T. sommieri* CARUEL (1860 : 556) under the name *T. humile* originating from the mountain Monte Rondinajo (1964 m) in the Luccan Apennines, and from the mountain Monte Crocchio (1367 m) from Pistoian Apennines. As directly cited by CARUEL these data refer to findings by GIAMINI and PARLATORE whose plants I saw. Later, CARUEL (1871 : 155) introduced *T. sommieri* in a survey, again, under the name of *T. humile* stating they occurred in Tuscany in montane to alpine zone.

From ARCANGELI's (1882 : 609) flora it is evident he included plants related to my new species, together with the species *T. parnassi*, to the species *T. arvense* called at that time, however, *T. ramosum* (see HENDRYCH, 1961b) which has been since that time wrongly stated for the largest part of Italy (except for the surroundings of Trieste (HENDRYCH 1961a : 17).

Works on Apuane Alps originating from a later date of GIBELLI and PIOTTE (1882a, 1882b, 1884), BOLZON (1895) and BARONI (1897—1908) remained to me inaccessible. It was, again, ROSSETTI (1893 : 137) who introduced our plants from those places under the name of *T. intermedium*, e.g. from the mountain Nona (1300 m) and Procinto (1177 m) as well as from the mountain Monte Croce (1314 m) above the village Palagnana.

Of all the above-mentioned authors it was SOMMIER (1894 : 26) who regarded the Apuane plants from a different point of view. This author having himself sampled the plants in Apuane Alps, especially on the mountain Monte Procinto (he was the first botanist to ascend its impassable summit) recognized the plants as a new type. However, starting from some habitual, or even more minucious characteristics he came to the conclusion influenced evidently by ARCANGELI's (1882 : 609) evaluation that it was a variety of the species *T. ramosum* which he called *T. ramosum* var. *leve*. It is evident that this conclusion of his was caused also by a fair confusion concerning the species *T. ramosum*. Later on, SOMMIER's conclusion was taken over, by FIORI (FIORI and PAOLETTI 1908 : 210) who designed it as a mere form in his conception of the species *T. linophyllum* β (var.) *ramosum* b. *leve* (see also FIORI 1923 : 387).

SOMMIER's distinguishing of the given type and its designation did not become popular since later on, NEGODI (1943 : 318) in his study of the flora of Monte Rondinajo mountain introduced real *T. sommieri*, again, under the name of *T. humile*. He even stressed (p. 18) that the presumed *T. humile* was among the local plants the only species of a meridional distribution. The same

is repeated in his later work (NEGODI 1944 : 20). Remarkably, NEGODI's attention was not drawn even by the fact the real *T. humile* was growing in Italy in extreme lowlands only not proceeding farther northwards than to the province of Latium where it occurred but sparcely; only individually, it is occurring in the extreme south of Tuscany, at the foot of Monte Argentario, namely, approximately 200 km southwards from Apuane Alps. Its sudden occurrence in the mountains and what more, in the north, should be most puzzling and improbable.

Finally, a comparatively new, voluminous but not very critical flora by PELLEGRINI (1942), is to be mentioned, dedicated especially to the Apuane Province (called also Massa-Carrara Province) where a part of Apuane Alps are situated. From that place, PELLEGRINI (1942: 255), states three species of the genus *Thesium* (wrongly included by him, together with the genus *Osyris*, into the family *Thymeleaceae*!). Under the number 1263 he introduces *T. ramosum* var. *leve* with a note: "On the mountain Tambura from the level of 1000 to 1400 m of altitude (SOMMIER), and on the mountain Monte Cavallo". The first finding place doubtlessly concerns *T. sommieri* but the other one originating from the mountain Monte Cavallo (1889 m), above the village Corfigliano I have not found in the herbariums. However, regarding the whole geographical situation of the finding place this also seems to be *T. sommieri*. The next species, No. 1264 introduced as *T. linophyllum* & *divaricatum*, by PELLEGRINI with a doubtlessly wrong synonyme of *T. humile* CARUEL, (see above) he introduces from a wood in places "Spolverina lungo" on a way to the village Marciaso. I have no material proof of plants from there. I do not suppose it is *T. sommieri*; more likely, it is *T. linophyllum* ssp. *linophyllum*. The third species, No. 1265 under the name of *T. intermedium* SCHRADER, provided, again, by a wrong synonyme of *T. italicum* A. DC. is introduced, again, from the mountain Tambura and from a stone-quarry near the village Torano, both of these places being mentioned before (p. 00), the finding place of BERTOLONI, (1819: 345). As far as the first finding place is concerned, it is certainly *T. sommieri*. As a further locality PELLEGRINI cites a finding place described by BOLZON, (1895), namely the mountain Pissa (more correctly La Pizza, 951 m) above the village Castelpoggio, and the mountain Monte d'Arma (305 m) over Carrara. The identity of the plants from those places as *T. sommieri* cannot be quite denied but I possess no proof of it. The same applies to other localities PELLEGRINI is adding: in the group of the mountain Sargo (evidently more correctly Monte Sargo, 1749 m) over the village Vinca, and along the road between the villages Vinca and Monzone. In the first place, regarding the total geographical position, it is quite probable it actually is *T. sommieri*, in the second case the plants belong rather more likely to *T. linophyllum* ssp. *linophyllum*.

Geographically *T. sommieri* appears as a species sharply segregated. With regard to the very stenotic area it belongs to those European species of this genus possessing a very small area. Besides it, it is only *T. auriculatum* VANDAS and *T. kernerianum* SIMONKAI, (see HENDRYCH 1963) and, to a certain extent, perhaps *T. italicum* A. DC. In order to stress more completely the importance of our new species it is interesting to note that Apuane Alps themselves, in spite of their comparatively small area represent a territory very rich in endemics. They possess specific species such as *Carum rigidulum* (VIV.) KOCH., *Cerastium apuanum* PARL., *Veronica longistyla* BALL, *Salix crataegifolia* BERT., *Santolina pinnata* VIV. and *Silene lanuginosa* BERT., all of them being species of submontane to alpine regions. Otherwise, however, strictly speaking, *T. sommieri* is, of course, only a semiendemic of Apuane Alps, the same as *Armeria marginata* LEV., (in the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines, too), *Cirsium bertoloni* SPR., *Globularia incanescens* VIV. (both of them similarly), *Pedicularis apennina* BONATI (in the Pistoian Apennines, too), *Polygala caruliana* BURNAT (in the Tuscan Apennines, too), *Primula apennina* WID. (in the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines, too), *Rhamnus glaucophylla* SOMM. (in the Luccan Apennines, too) and *Sisymbrium zanonii* J. GAY. (in the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines, too). Thus, it is a region relatively rich in endemics where, probably, some very segregated species represent relict types, the less segregated ones the neorelicts originated

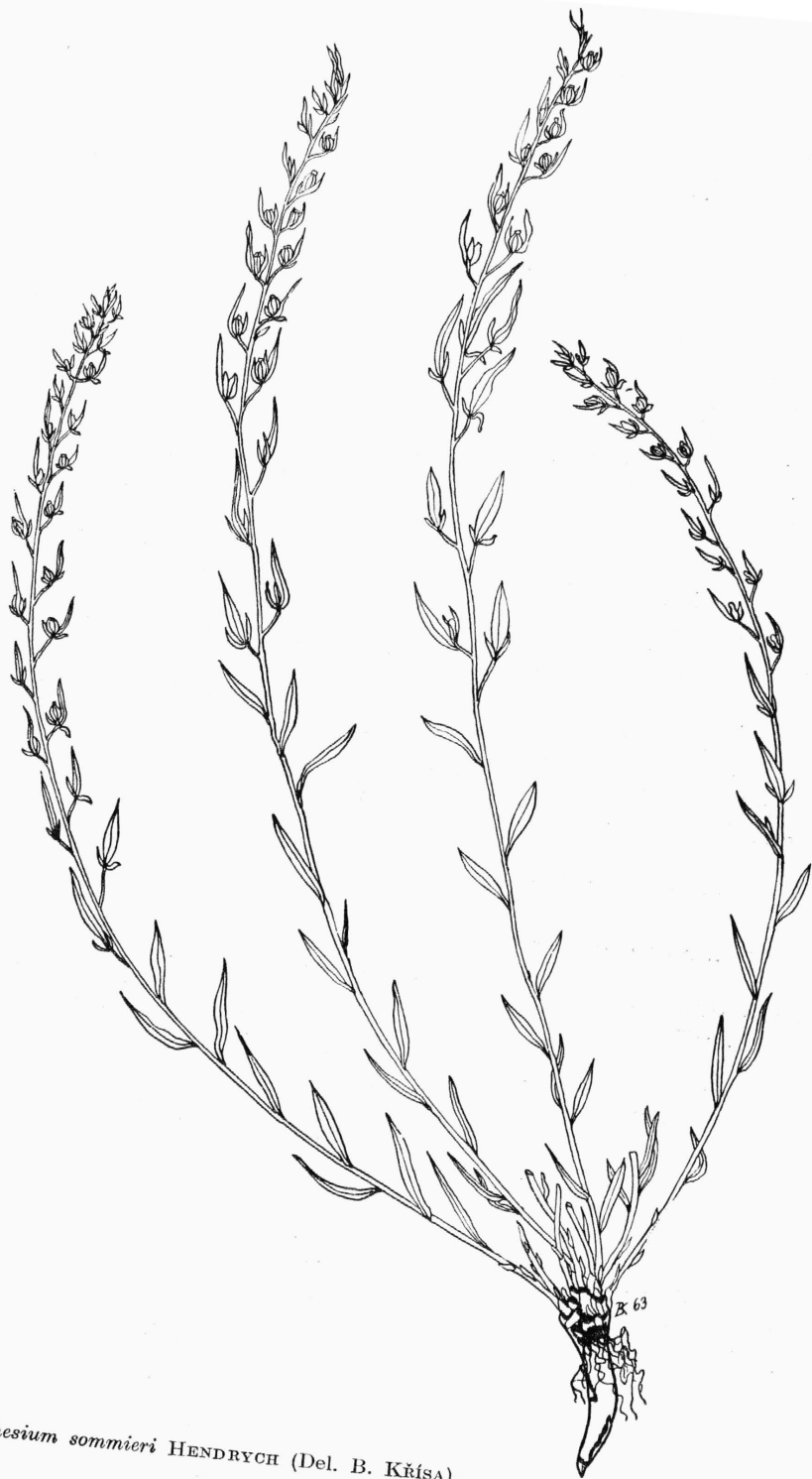


fig. 1. — *Thesium sommieri* HENDRYCH (Del. B. KRÍSA).

by isolation of species related to them. The high degree of relictization of some types from the Apuane Alps and neighbourhood is complemented by the local existence of arells of species such as *Heracleum pollinianum* BERT., *Silene auriculata* SIEB. & MAUR. and *S. graminea* VIS. The distribution of these species is marked by a distinct Adriatic disjunction with a very narrow restriction on the Apennine Peninsula but a restriction including just the region in the neighbourhood of the Apuane Alps. The processes of endemization and relictization in the given region were helped, and to a great extent caused by an unusually varied configuration of the relief, and the geological base of chalk. The last but not least factor was represented by an outstanding geographical situation of the whole territory which had not been touched by the Ice Age to such an extent and degree as the southern part of Alps and the promontory of them.

As far as the phylogenetic relations are concerned I have come to the conclusion that *T. sommieri* belongs into the series *Micrantha* (HENDRYCH 1962 : 20). It is quite probable that it represents a fairly ancient type in this series possessing as far as the growth, flower shape, branching, etc. are concerned, a certain tendency to hypothetical initial types of these series. To a certain extent, this fact could be proved also be a decreased specification in the vertical distribution which, in comparison with other species of the *Micrantha* series, is much wider. At this occasion I should like to mention that by its evidently paleorelictic endemic occurrence in a small territory of the Apuane Alps and the neighbouring Apennines *T. sommieri* fits fully into the character of this series, with strongly dismembered area, which is typical for the central and eastern parts of the Mediterranean. Otherwise, I am intending to treat this question more profoundly in another work dealing with *T. parnassi* with regard to the whole *Micrantha* series.

Summatim conscriptum:

***Thesium sommieri* sp. n.**

Planta rhizomate estolonifero, foliis solum uninerviis, inflorescentia simpliciter racemosa, ramusculis unifloris, floribus pentameris, perigonio infundibuliter campanulato, laciniis integerrimis, bractea flore ca duplo longiore, bracteolis flore brevioribus, perigonio sicco deflorato fructu quadruplo brevior, fructu unice longitrorse nervato.

Nomen: *Th. sommieri* HENDRYCH (1964) in Preslia 36 : 118.

Synonyma:

- Th. intermedium* BERTOLONI (1819) Amoen. ital. sist. opusc. 345; PELLEGRINI, Fl. prov. Apuan. 255 (ex p.?), non SCHRADER, nec C. A. MEYER.
Th. linophyllum BERTOLONI (1835) Fl. Ital. 2 : 740, quoad pl. Apuan., non LINNÉ.
Th. italicum A. DeCANDOLLE in DeCANDOLLE (1853) Prodr. syst. nat. 14 : 644, quoad pl. BERTOL.
Th. humile CARUEL (1860) Prodr. Fl. Tosc. 556; CARUEL, Suppl. Prodr. Fl. Tosc. 24 (1861); CARUEL, Statist. bot. Tosc. 155 (1871), non VAHL, nec KOCH.
Th. ramosum ARCANGELI (1882) Compend. Fl. Ital. 609, ex p., non HAYNE.
Th. ramosum var. *leve* SOMMIER (1894) in Nuovo Giorn. Bot. It., sér. n., 1 : 26; PELLEGRINI, Fl. prov. Apuan. 255, non BRIQUET, Fl. Cors. 1 : 433 (1910).
Th. racemosum var. *leve* FIORI (1907) in Nuov. Giorn. Bot. It., sér. n., 14 : 79, per laps. cal.

Th. linophyllum β (var.) *ramosum* b. *leve* FIORI in FIORI et PAOLETTI (1908) Fl. Anal. It. 4 (App.): 240.

Th. linophyllum γ *ramosum* (HAYNE) FIORI (1923) Nuov. Fl. Anal. It. 1 : 387, ex p.

Descriptio:

Planta perennis.

Rhizoma perpendiculare vel obliquum, estoloniferum, plus minusve breve, crassum, sublignosum, multiceps, caules nonnullos (5—10) aut item plures (usque 25—30) emmittens, in radicem fusiformem usque cylindraceum transiens.

Caulis valde breviter ascendens aut usque suberectus, sat frequenter falcate in orbem deflectus 10—20 cm longus, simplex, eramosus vel tantum perraro solitarieque ramosus, debilis, 0,7—1 mm in diametro, levis, relative conspicue quadriangulatus, longitrorse sulcatus, satis foliosus, a dimidia aut a tertia parte superiore in inflorescentiam transiens.

Folia ima valde brevina, squamiformia, 2—4 mm longa, subconstipata, luteo-brunea usque brunescens. Folia caulina oblonga usque sublanceolata, (1) 1,5—2 (2,5) cm longa, 1,5—2 (3) mm lata, distincte uninervia, rarius indistincte trinervia, levia, integerrima, breviter acuminata, viridia, sessilia, alternata, anguste dilute usque luteo-marginata.

Inflorescentia racemosa, simplex, subconstipata, vaga, heteromalla et subpauciflora.

Bractea plus minusve lanceolata, floribus (usque 2 $\times$) longior et fructibus prominenter longior, in parte inferiore inflorescentiae postea usque 4—5plo fructibus longior, ergo 3—10 (15) mm longa, 1—2 mm lata, uninervia, levis, integerrima aut inconspicue subtiliter denticulata aliter foliis consimilis. Bracteolae duae, oblongae, floribus aut fructibus breviores, rarius aequilongae vel sublongae, ergo 2—4 (7) mm longae, 0,5—0,7 (1) mm latae, aliter bractee consimiles.

Ramuli floriferi subtenues, 2—4 (5) mm longi, in inflorescentia in apicem versus sensim abbreviati, oblique patuli, distincte quadrangulati, glabri, leves, semper solum uniflori.

Flores infundibuliter campanulati, mediocres, 2,5—3 (4) mm longi, pentameri, breviter sed conspicue stipitati.

Perigonium intus albidum vel flavescens (an?), extus viridulum, sed postea brunescens, in lobos quinque dissectum; lobi late triangulati, integerrimi, apice intra paulo inflexi et subobtusiuscule acuti.

Fructus ovate ellipsoideus, postea ellipsoideus, subparvus, ca (2) 2,5—3,5 mm longus, 1,5—2 mm latus, distincte tantum longitrorse primum inemerse postremum emergere nervatus, flavescens postea usque brunescens, breviter sed distincte stipitatus; stipitellus angulate alaticulus.

Perigonium siccum defloratum inconspicuum, maxime 1 mm longum, subcylindraceum, intra inflexum et contractum.

Floret: Junio—Julio. Fructificat: Julio—Augusto.

Stationes: In rupibus et omnino in locis rupestribus saxosisque calcareis montanae et imprimis supramontanae usque alpinae regionis crescit.

Locus classicus: Cacumen montis Monte Procinto (1177 m) supra pagum Stazzema (in Etruria septentrionali), ca 1170 m s. m. impositus.

Typus: In herbario Instituti botanici universitatis Florentinae in Florentia conservatur.

Etymologia: Ad memoriam clarissimi Caroli Petri Stephani SOMMIERI (1848—1922), botanistae italici denominatur.

Differentia:

A *Th. linophyllum* (subspeciebus ambabus) inflorescentia simplici, racemosa, ramulis floriferis unifloriis, floribus solum infundibuliter campanulatis, foliis unice univerviis, angustioribus, caule debili, laciniis perigonii absque dentibus distat. A *Th. arvensi* inflorescentia simplici eramosa, simpliciter racemosa, ramulis floriferis brevioribus, foliis item brevioribus et saepe relative latioribus, floribus infundibuliter campanulatis differt. A speciebus *Th. pyrenaicum* (subspeciebus ambabus) et *Th. alpinum* perigonio sicco deflorato fructu ca quadruplo brevior et insuper a *Th. alpino* floribus semper quinqueris abhorret. A *Th. humili* foliis tenuibus, caule plerumque rarius folioso et imprimis

fructibus solum longitrorse nervatis distat. A *Th. humifuso* ssp. *divaricato* floribus infundibuliformibus, ramulis unice unifloris et inflorescentia omnino simpliciore et bractea longiore differt. A *Th. italico* rhizomate estolonifero, inflorescentia abundante, elongata, subconstipata et floribus infundibuliformibus abhorret.

Affinitas:

Species in serie relative valde segregata. A *Th. parnassi* rhizomate estolonifero, caule crassiore elatioreque, foliis longioribus, inflorescentia laxa, elongata, multiflora, ramulis floriferis longioribus distat. Convenit cum eo caractere habitus, typo bracteae bracteolarumque, simplicitate ramificationis inflorescentiae et caractere florum. A speciebus *Th. brachyphyllum*, *Th. libanoticum* et item *Th. brachystegium* statura elatiore robustioreque, foliis longioribus, inflorescentia laxiore, longiore, ramulis floriferis longioribus differt. Convenit cum eis characteribus similibus ut cum *Th. parnassi*.

Positio in systemate generis: In serie *Micrantha* sectionis subgenerisque *Thesium* positum.

Icona: Fig. 1. mea.

Area geographica: Species adhuc ut planta Alpium Apuanarum atque montium Appenninorum Lucensium Pistoriensiumque endemica, cognita.

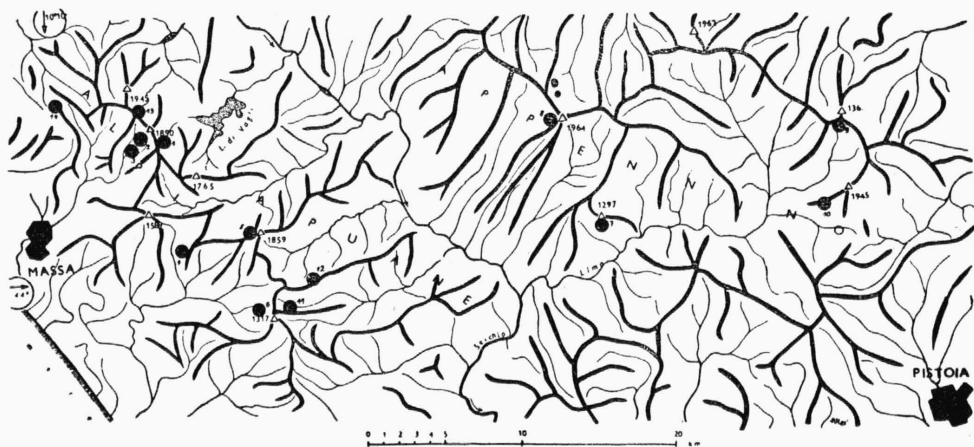


Fig. 2. — The distribution of *Thesium sommieri*. The numbers apply to localities on pp. 120–121. (Del. R. HENDRYCH.)

Specimina examinata:

Alpes Apuanae

- 1) Ad pedem montis Tambura (1620 m) prope cavernam Cave d'Arnétola dictam, ca 800 m s. m. — A. FIORI, 4. 8. 1908.
- 2) In monte Tambura (1620 m) super vico Resceto. — E. LEVIER, 14. 7. 1875. Infra jugum Passo di Tambura, alt. 1400–1500 m. — ANDREÁNSZKY (Mus. nat. Budapest).
- 3) Super vico Resceto ad viam in montem Tambura (1620 m) ferentem. — S. SOMMIER, 29. 7. 1888.

- 4) A pago Levegliani ad septentrio-orientem ab oppido Seravezza. — U. MARTELLI, 28. 6. 1891.
- 5) In monte Pania della Croce (1859 m) dicto. — S. SOMMIER, 11. 7. 1893.
- 6) In cacumine montis Monte Procinto (1177 m), ca 1170 m s. m., in rupestribus haud frequens. — S. SOMMIER, 10. 7. 1893 et 6. 8. 1893. In loco Cintura del Procinto, in monte Procinto (1177 m), ca 1000 m s. m. — S. SOMMIER, 9. 7. 1893 et 5. 8. 1893.

Appenninus Lucensis

- 7) In monte Prato Fiorito (1297 m) dicto. — S. SOMMIER, 21. 7. 1872.
- 8) In monte Rondinajo (1964 m). — G. GIANNINI, 8. 1843 et 9. 1844.

Appenninus Pistoriensis

- 9) In monte Crocicchio (1366 m). — F. PARLATORE, 8. 7. 1862.
- 10) In montibus super vico Piastre. — J. GEMMI, 20. 8. 1897.

E literatura loca probabilia cognita.

- 11) In monte Nona (1300 m), ad orientem a monte Procinto. — ROSSETTI sec. SOMMIER (1894 : 26).
- 12) In monte Monte Croce (1314 m), ad septentrio-orientem a monte Procinto (non Pania della Croce !). — ROSSETTI sec. SOMMIER (1894 : 26).
- 13) In monte Monte Cavallo (1889 m) super pago Corfigliano. — BOLZON sec. PELLEGRINI (1942 : 255).
- 14) In monte Monte Sagro (1749 m) super pago Vinca. — BOLZON sec. PELLEGRINI (1942 : 255).

A d n o t a t i o : In herbario Horti botanici regalis Edinensi (Britannia) specimina sequentia a me novissime detecta, omnia a cl. Iohanno BALLO (1818—1899) lecta, ab eodem non determinata: 1) *Ex* regione silvatica Apennini Pistoriensis, 7. 1844. 2) *Ex* Alpium Apuanarum excelso vertice, Pania della Croce, 7. 1844. 3) *Ex* rupibus marmoreis Alpium Apuanarum, prope Passo di Tambura, 8. 1844. 4) *Ex* montibus Apuanis, ad scaturigines Frigidae, 5. 1848. 5) *Ex* Alpium Apuanarum, in regione montana; Valle della Turrite Cava, 7. 1866. 6) *Ex* Alpium Apuanarum, in regione montana; M. Alpe di S. Antoine, 7. 1866.

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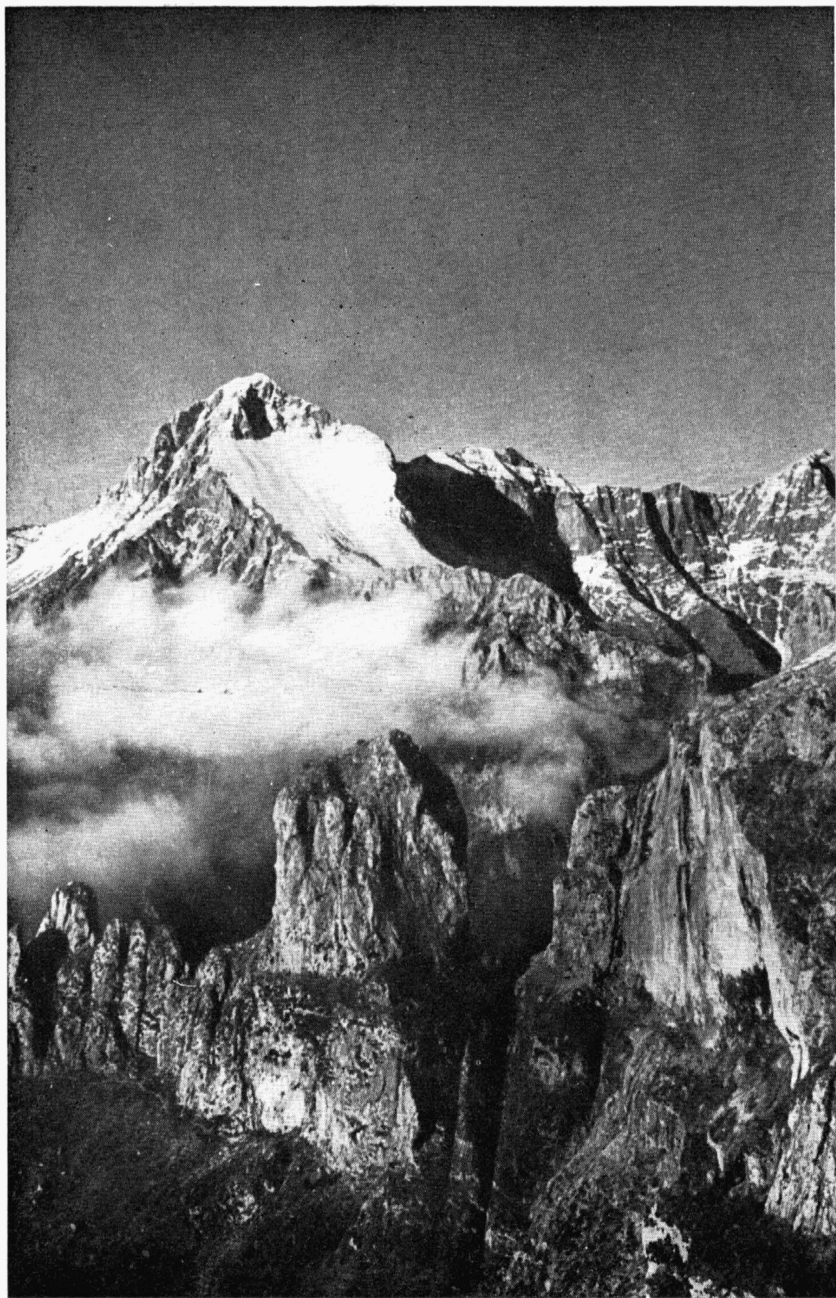
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Explanations of the plate VI:

View of Monte Procinto (1177 m.), locus classicus of *Thesium sommieri*. With the snow-covered mountain Monte Corchia (1677 m.) in the background. (Photo by C. SARDI.)



R. Hendrych: A New Endemic *Thesium* Species from Italy